

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the
2 passing of former Texas state representative Joe Barnett Cannon on
3 February 8, 2022, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of James Barnett Cannon and Virginia Buck
5 Cannon, Joe Cannon was born in Thornton on January 29, 1935; he grew
6 up with the companionship of his big brother, Buck, and in 1940, the
7 family moved to Mexia; in high school, he excelled in baseball and
8 several other sports, and his abilities in debate earned him the
9 title of state declamation champion in 1950; he also became student
10 body president and salutatorian of his graduating class at Mexia
11 High; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon attended North Texas State College,
13 where he majored in political science and was active in the campus
14 community, serving as president of the debate club, rush chair of
15 Sigma Nu Fraternity, and president of the student body; he went on
16 to study law at The University of Texas and was recognized as the
17 Outstanding Advocate in the finals of the State Moot Court
18 Competition; and

19 WHEREAS, While finishing up law school, Mr. Cannon
20 successfully ran for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives,
21 and he ultimately served three terms in office, from 1959 to 1965;
22 during his tenure as a lawmaker, he was instrumental in passing
23 legislation to eliminate a state poll tax, to accelerate the
24 integration of public schools and universities, and to establish a

1 40-hour workweek for state school and hospital employees; moreover,
2 he served on a range of committees and was chair of the State
3 Hospitals and Special Schools Committee during the 57th Legislature
4 and vice chair of the Enrolled Bills Committee for the 58th
5 Legislature; and

6 WHEREAS, At the conclusion of his legislative service,
7 Mr. Cannon opened a law practice in Groesbeck; throughout his
8 distinguished legal career, he proved himself a skilled and
9 determined attorney and was renowned for the professionalism,
10 compassion, and courtesy he demonstrated in the course of his
11 duties; highly respected by his peers, he served as chair of the
12 State Bar of Texas board of directors and as chair of the district
13 grievance committee; in recognition of his many achievements, he
14 received an Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award from the Texas Bar
15 Foundation in 2010; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Cannon married the former Alice Jean Sundberg in
17 1960, and they became the parents of two children, JoAl and Thure;
18 following the passing of Alice Jean, Mr. Cannon was fortunate
19 enough to find love again with Debra K. Goodwin, and the couple were
20 wed in 2000; over the years, he had the pleasure of seeing his
21 family grow to include two stepsons, David and Thomas, two
22 grandsons, Knox and Nash, and five step-grandchildren, Graham,
23 Lily, Harrison, Everett, and Jude; and

24 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, an accomplished attorney, and
25 a dedicated public servant, Joe Cannon is deeply missed, but he
26 leaves behind a legacy that will long be treasured by all those who
27 held him dear; now, therefore, be it

H.R. No. 328

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Joe
3 Barnett Cannon and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones;
4 and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
7 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Joe Cannon.

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H.R. No. 328

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 328 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 8, 2023.

Chief Clerk of the House